



## The Carolina DX Association

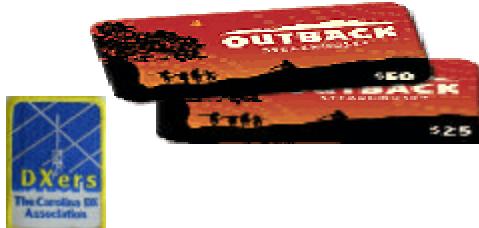
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# The Pileup

## Newsletter of the CDXA

### More CWAC Prizes for 2007

Dick Williams, W3OA



The contest season is almost here and it's time to get ready for the CQ World Wide Contests and CWAC (Contest Within a Contest). The phone contest is the weekend of October 26, CW the weekend of November 23. We are offering a lot of prizes to encourage you to participate in CWAC and thus contribute to CDXA's CQWW Club Score. This year we have added first place prizes for low power entries, both phone and CW.

Our CQWW Club Scores for the last several years are shown below. We want to continue our upward climb in the national rankings. Let's try to

(Continued on page 2)

Year	CDXA Score	Rank In U.S.A.
1999	8,380,897	27
2000	12,494,946	22
2001	15,813,137	17
2002	17,364,657	20
2003	15,383,214	19
2004	23,246,423	15
2005	17,672,958	18
2006	25,680,386	12

### CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems

W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
NG4DX (Digi near Galax, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Connect to NG4DX, then type "C W4DXA"
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)		k4md.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600 )		W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
Echolink Interconnect to CDXA Rptr.		Login to K4DXA -R
World Wide Web Homepage		www.cdfa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)		Murphy's Food and Spirits, 131 E. Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC

(Continued from page 1)

break into the top 10 this year!

1st place prizes – Each winner can choose a trophy or a \$50 gift card for Outback Steak House. These will be awarded in the categories listed below. An individual can only win one trophy/gift card.

Top combined phone and CW score

Top CW score, low power

Top phone score

Top DXpedition score

Top phone score, low power

Top Multi-op score

Top CW score

1000 or more QSOs total in the phone and CW contests – Each winner can choose a trophy or a \$25 gift card for Outback Steak House.

250 or more QSOs – A 2 by 3 inch, colored, embroidered patch with the CDXA logo.

Only members whose scores are eligible for the club competition as defined in the contest rules can win a 1<sup>st</sup> place prize or a 1000 QSO prize. That means their station must be within 275 km of our club center or be on a DXpedition and live within that radius. We can choose where our club center is so don't count yourself out just because you are a little more than 275 km from Charlotte. The rules are available in full at <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/CQWWDXContestRules8407.pdf> or page 26 of CQ magazine for this September. All CDXA members are eligible for the CDXA patch. Prizes will be based on your claimed score and presented at the Christmas dinner.

Let me know if you have any questions, suggestions, or need help in preparing for CQWW. And, please let me know if you are planning a DXpedition for CQWW.

Dick Williams, W3OA w3oa@adelphia.net (704) 658-0915

## Ten and Twenty Years Ago. . .

(The items making up this article were extracted from the archived issues of the PILEUP, available on the CDXA website at [www.cdx.org](http://www.cdx.org).)

### Ten Years Ago

The editor of the Pileup was getting excited because the NBS reports of sunspot indices was improving nicely. . . a new digipeater was installed on Beamer Knob, a few miles

west of Fancy Gap, VA. There were also digis in Greensboro and on Young Mountain near Cleveland. How the Internet has changed a lot of that. . . "Uncle Henry" Elwell (N4UH) wrote a piece for the Pileup about coupling between other metallic elements in the vicinity of some vertical antennas he wanted to install (good reading!). . . everyone was getting "revved up" for the end of summer BBQ to be held at K4BVQ's place on September 27.

### Twenty Years Ago

Unless these callsigns have been reassigned, Brian (9J2BO) and Jacky (3B8CF) from Zambia and Mauritius, respectively, were making hams happy everywhere by being on the air. . . a group was headed to St Paul Island (CY9) and was soon to be putting out signals. . . F6CZB was heading to Amsterdam Island (FT8Z) for a work stint and all were waiting for a chance to work him. . . VK9ZG was providing many a chance to work Willis Island. . . Bill and Joey Parris had just treated all CDXAers to a great BBQ at their home. . . Gary Dixon, then CDXA President, made an appeal for financial and elbow grease support for N4ZC's contest station. . . Ron Wright (ZL1AMO) announced that he was conducting a DXpedition to Auckland/Campbell Islands in February 1988. . . Father Marshall Moran (9N1MM) was awarded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ARRL Humanitarian Award. Father Moran had been in Nepal since the early 1950s and was the first licensed radio amateur in Nepal.

### The Pileup

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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each December. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL  
P. O. Box 577  
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: [cliffw@adelphia.net](mailto:cliffw@adelphia.net).

## CDXA Continues to Improve in CQWW

Dick Williams, W3OA

CDXA placed 12th of the 60 USA club scores reporting scores in last year's CQ World Wide CW (CQWW) Club Competition. We scored over 24 million points. That's a lot better than we've done in previous years – see the accompanying article announcing the 2007 CWAC (Contest Within a Contest). These and other results are published in the September issue of CQ.

For local bragging rights, we finished well ahead of the Tennessee Contest Group who placed 18<sup>th</sup> with 11 million points. Remember this if there is a lull in the conversation at SEDCO!

Our five-man CW team (AA4S, W0AH, W4GMY, WA4DOU, and AA4NN operating ZS3NN) also scored a 12<sup>th</sup> place with just shy of 5 million points. This was among all of the 21 CW teams worldwide reporting scores.

Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the calls of all the CDXA CW CWAC entrants who scored in the top half of their class as listed in CQ. The last column shows the entrant's place in his class and the number of entrants in that class. Those calls shown in bold face will receive certificates from CQ.

Mark your calendar for this year's CQWW contests. SSB is the weekend of October 26, CW the weekend of November 23.

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No. in Class
<b>AA4S</b>	2,170,444	US-Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	2/62
AA4V	950,520	US-Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power	12/48
AD4IE	155,709	US-Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	30/62
<b>IS0/K7QB (IN3QBR)</b>	203,082	Sardinia	Single Op, High Power, 160 meters	1/1
<b>N4PQX</b>	35,010	US-Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, 15 meters	1/1
W0AH (now K4LY)	817,472	US-Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	5/62
<b>W3GQ</b>	1,952,882	US-Call Area 4	Multi-op, Single Transmitter	1/2
W3OA	854,700	US-Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	10/62
W4GMY	113,000	US-Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power All Bands	26/62
WA4DOU	623,472	US-Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	7/62

### **That was easy!**

Ric Porter's son, James, has been studying to become a ham a little here and a little there. With his dad at Shelby, James told Ric he wanted to buy a book. This is not unusual since James is an avid reader—perhaps somewhat atypical of a 7th grader. The book James wanted to purchase just happened to be the Technician Class License Manual. All throughout Shelby, James was walking side by side with Ric with his nose stuck in his new book. A few times Ric had to pull him aside so he wouldn't run into people.

At the end of the day, James wanted to go over to the

exam session, because, as he said, "I think I can pass the test."

Apparently a few old timers were completing their tests near the end of the day when James showed up. About 20 minutes after he sat down to take his test, he signaled that he was done. The proctor came over, picked up the test paper and delivered it to the VE team scoring the test papers. Soon one of the examiners looked up at James, smiled, and mouthed the words silently, "You passed!"

So, James, welcome to the ranks of radio amateurs, and please let your Dad use his rig from time to time!

## Roving Reporter visits K4CIA

(The Roving Reporter wandered over Raleigh, NC way this month to speak with Bill McDowell, K4CIA.)

**Roving Reporter:** Good evening, Bill. I enjoy getting over to the eastern parts of North Carolina to do these interviews so we get to know our members all across the Carolinas. Just to get things going, I always like to find out how our members got started in Amateur Radio.

**Bill, K4CIA:** I'm probably like a lot of kids of that era. I lived in Nicholasville, KY. There was a friend across the street, W4VKR (Vigilant Kentucky Rebel) who first interested me in radio. He had a Hallicrafters SX-28 receiver, and I used to listen to his radio when I was 14 years old. It so interested me that I became a ham at age 15 in 1955. While W4VKR was my "Elmer", it was W4JSH who administered my novice test. I eventually earned my General Class license as a Conditional examinee. Conditional licenses were granted to those who had their examinations administered locally by a higher class ham via the mails as a concession to those of us who lived more than about 125 miles from a Federal examination point. Cincinnati, Ohio was the closest point to us, and at 15, it was tough for a kid to go that far!

**RR:** As a new licensee, what kinds of "on-air" activities did you enjoy the most?

**K4CIA:** You know, I never really gravitated to traffic handling or rag chewing. I did a little of that plus some mobiling and VHF work but almost from the beginning, I loved DXing—the farther away the contact, the better. So, at age 15 I was destined to be a DXer.

**RR:** How did you do that DXing—CW, AM, or SSB?

**K4CIA:** I gravitated towards CW almost immediately, and I guess to this day it is probably my preferred mode, but I've worked as much on SSB as CW over the years. As I got a little older, I used to listen longingly at all that juicy DX on the bottom 25 kHz of the bands—where only the Extras could work. I went along that way for awhile.

**RR:** What changed?

**K4CIA:** As a young man, I moved to North Carolina in 1965 seeking a graduate degree in Public Health. I was closer to a Federal building here, so I decided to get my Extra and in doing so alter my license class from that "conditional" class I'd held since first being li-

censed.

**RR:** So that class stayed with you until you got tested at a FCC Examination Center?

**K4CIA:** Yep. And therein lies an interesting story. When I went to upgrade, the examiner didn't really know the regulations regarding conditional licensing, and he told me I couldn't do what I wanted to do as regards upgrading. I insisted I could and after leading him through the regulations, he finally agreed. Yet, he still required me to pass each of the General, Advanced, and Extra examinations in turn—only being allowed to take the next class's exam when I had successfully passed the predecessor class. I passed all three exams in that day. It was somewhat grueling, but when I left I was an Extra, and those juicy Extra band segments were there awaiting me after the new ticket arrived about six weeks later.

**RR:** Okay, so now you can operate where you please. What were the results?

**K4CIA:** I didn't mean to imply that I hadn't been diligent in chasing DX before I got to North Carolina. I had earned my original DXCC in 1959, long before I moved. But it was pleasurable being able to finally work those hams hanging out in the Extra segments. You know, the 5BDXCC award didn't come along until 1970, and that spurred my interest in the low bands. I soon had certificate #75 for 5BDXCC. On 160m, I earned DXCC-160 certificate #11 in 1978. For "closer in" contacts, I earned 5BWAS Certificate #98. I also hold Certificate #16 for DXCC-80 and Certificate #31 for DXCC-40.

**RR:** In last month's *Pileup*, we saw a picture of you, Tom Lewis (N4TL) and Robert McNeill (W4MBD) shown as holders of #1 DXCC Honor Roll. You didn't mention that nor anything about WAZ.

**K4CIA:** I'm sure you know how it is—you just keep chasing "new ones" and one day you have them all if you stay at it long enough. Surprisingly, my #1 Honor Roll is for Mixed and SSB. I still need P5 and 7O on CW. Except for four zones I still need on 160m, I'd have WAZ on 9 bands.

**RR:** Wow, Bill, with those statistics, you're the envy of the majority of DXers. Some folks find contesting a great way to accumulate DX entities. What roll did contesting play for you?

**K4CIA:** Contesting has been almost an incidental

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

thing with me. I went to a local Potomac Valley Radio Club meeting once, and they convinced me to try contesting. I did, and they made me a member and dubbed me a competitor. But, all the contesting I've done since then has been QRP.

**RR:** Most say that "life is too short to run QRP, especially in a contest", but I recall seeing you did quite well in that category in a recent contest.

**K4CIA:** Yes, I did win the Top W/VE in the ARRL International DX Contest (Phone) in the QRP category. I've won other, more selective classes, but that one was quite satisfying. My TS-480 is the QRP contesting radio, cut back to 5 watts.

**RR:** Thinking back on your 50+ years in amateur radio, is there anything that stands out in your mind as an extremely memorable, humorous, or noteworthy event about ham radio?

**K4CIA:** I have never told this before, at least in print, but clearly it was one day in June, 1956 when I was invited to operate the station of my good friends in Lexington, KY—namely Bill Maxson, then K4GSU now N4AR and his father Chuck Maxson, K4GEZ who is now SK. What an absolute thrill to sit down before a Collins 75A4 receiver, and a Viking Ranger driving a Johnson Desk Kilowatt amplifier. And outside was a full size Telrex 3 element 20m yagi. This was DX heaven on earth for a 16 year old kid who had an S-38C and Heathkit AT-1 at home. Real DX was FUN! Absolutely another world compared to what I had been experiencing only 12 miles down the road. That was the impetus I needed to improve EVERYTHING and do this thing called DXing myself. It took a long time to come close, but finally it happened. But that day stands out still as the key to my lifetime interest in the pursuit of DX.

**RR:** With all your years in radio, did you ever have a rig that was a clear favorite?

**K4CIA:** You know, I can't really say I have a favorite. As long as a rig "works", it is fine for me. Of course, our rigs just seem to get better and better with time. I currently have as my mainstay setup a Yaesu FT-1000MP running into an Alpha 86 linear amplifier. I also own a Kenwood TS-480 that I use mainly for 6 meter work. My experience is that the Kenwood "hears" everything that the FT-1000MP hears, so I'm happy with both. I'm pretty new to 6 meters—only about 4 years on that band—but I've managed to con-

firm 86 countries so far. So, it's off on another chase. . .

**RR:** What do you have for antennas? Everybody will want to know that because of you your successes in DXing.

**K4CIA:** In relation to some hams, I have a modest antenna farm. On a 40 foot tower, I have a 5-element, M<sup>2</sup> 6 meter beam. On a 105 foot tall Rohn 25G tower I have installed a 5 band Hy-Gain TH-11DX beam, a rotary dipole for 40m above that, inverted V's for 160m and 80m, a fixed dipole for 30m, a 30m loop and I shunt feed the whole tower for 160 meters. 80 radials are buried beneath the tower.

**RR** Putting up all those antennas, burying radials and working DX doesn't keep you busy does it, HI HI?

**K4CIA** Nah! When things get slow, I do card checking for DXCC, VUCC, and WAS. I am also chasing Scottish Islands and Scottish Lighthouses. The islands and lighthouses are primarily a summer activity.

**RR** Yeah, right, Bill. I guess you fit the old adage, "When you want to get something done, ask a busy man to do it." Thanks for giving us a glimpse of your ham radio life.

## K4MQG Provides Shelby "Checker" Update

*(Gary Dixon, K4MQG, always takes the time to provide us information on DXCC submissions at the nearby hamfests.)*

This year at the Shelby Hamfest I checked 20 DXCC applications with a total of 962 QSOs. In 2006, there were 6 DXCC applications with 183 QSOs. This was the biggest year in the past three years.

If you recall, there was a gasoline pipeline problem last year at this time. It caused a spike in gasoline prices and a real scare regarding gasoline availability for those planning a trip to Shelby. The result was a big attendance drop last year. Things were "cooking" again at Shelby, and that was good to see.

Ken Boyd also had a busy day with WAS and VUCC applications, and had a steady pace of W4 Bureau activity. —73 Gary, K4MQG



## They REALLY Do That Sort of Thing?

About 50 souls, including many XYLs, converged on Brooklyn South pizzeria on Saturday, August 25, 2007 to hear and see Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, provide the story of what it is like to go on a DXpedition to a rare DX QTH.

All hams who can read or look at picture books know what Scarborough Reef is all about, but many spouses of hams are not so informed. So, it is understandable that there is reluctance of some spouses to go to "hear about all that radio stuff that I won't understand." One such spouse was Sandy Mills, XYL of Nobby Mills (W4UFO). Nobby was able to convince Sandy to "come and see", even though they had a follow-on engagement later that same evening. Sandy was skeptical that this was going to be a "technical" presentation. Instead of leaving at 8:30PM as planned, Sandy got so absorbed in Joe's presentation that she saw it through to the end. Nobby and Sandy were about 50 minutes late to their next event, but I've heard from Nobby that Sandy was really surprised that "hams really do that sort of thing."



Pictured left to right are Wayne Ashworth (W4HG), Sandy Mills, Nobby Mills (W4UFO), Mrs. Caselli, and Wilson Caselli (K1MIJ).

From comments this writer heard, there were some non-hams and hams alike that were heard muttering about the crazy things we do. As a member of the DX Advisory Committee, Gary Dixon (K4MQG) provided commentary on the events leading to four or five of small rocks more than 200 miles from the nearest land mass in the South China Sea being named a DXCC "entity".



**AA4NN told us the Captain of their charter boat would not let the operators on "the rocks" have any beer out of safety fears. Joe spent three 12 hour shifts on the rock for hams all over the world while at BS7H—without a brew. K8YC wasn't about to deny AA4NN his just rewards this night.**

There was one other noteworthy item about the event. Hams REALLY like to gobble down pizza! Our waitress, Laura, handles events in this restaurant's banquet room, and she was surprised at how our group took to an "all you can eat" event! Pizza must be accompanied by a beer for many folks, so those who wanted to quell their thirst kept the beer pitchers full at their tables. Best of all, as XYLs attend more and more of these events, they've come to look forward to renewing their acquaintances. It is enjoyable to see the CDXA "family" enlarged by participation of the spouses. Will we see you at the next event?

## Welcome New Member

CDXA is happy to welcome **Tim Slay (N4IB)** back to the ranks of the membership. Tim is the Section Manager of North Carolina, and we suspect his busy schedule visiting various amateur radio clubs across the state caused him to miss his renewal. Welcome back, Tim!

## Vanity License Fees to Be Reduced

(Extracted from ARRL Newsletter V26, #36 dated 9/7/2007.)

The FCC will reduce the regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent starting September 17. In a Report & Order (R&O) released August 6, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2007," in MD Docket 07-81, the Commission will cut the fee from its current \$20.80 to \$11.70. This marks the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 11 years of the current program -- from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50. The FCC says it anticipates some 14,700 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$171,990 in fees from the program.

## Last Call for SEDCO—September 29

By the time you read the October 2007 issue of *The Pileup*, SEDCO III will be history. Speakers and details for signing up can be found in last months' issue of *The Pileup*. A recent count showed about 18 CDXA members and spouses have already committed to go. Will you be there?

## Software for the Ham

By John Scott, K8YC

I am always pleasantly surprised at the quality software that radio amateurs create and make available as free-ware for their fellow hams. We find out about these by word of mouth or via newsletters like the ARRL's *Contest Rate Sheet*.

**VE7CC** Paul Sturpe, W3GQ, gave me the heads up on this piece of software to make interfacing with any cluster running CC Cluster, AR Cluster or DX Spider a piece of cake. It will work whether you are accessing the cluster via a TNC or via a telnet session through the Internet.

This software is downloadable from <http://www.ve7cc.net>. It is written by Canadian ham Lee Sawkins, VE7CC. The software provides a nice user interface to save you the effort of using the standard "command line" interface inherent in using most cluster software. When you use a conventional cluster

program, the screen is usually divided into a lower screen where your commands are entered and an upper screen where the results of your commands or spontaneous spots are displayed. When an announcement or talk message comes in, it is displayed along with the spots. If someone starts using the comment part of a spot to "chat", soon the screen is filled with meaningless gibberish. Meanwhile, valid spots, if any, are interspersed with the gibberish and comments from the "cluster police".

In VE7CC, Lee Sawkins gives you a nicely organized screen. On the bottom is a single line to enter a native cluster command if you can't figure out any other way to do what you want. On the top 1/3 of the screen is displayed the raw spot data as it arrives from the cluster, but in the middle of the screen is where "the rubber meets the road". Here, Lee provides you 11 tabs like on a file folder. The tabs are: Settings, Country, State, Bands, Users, DX, WWV, Login Message, Announce, Wx Plus, and Mail.

Clicking on the Settings tab lets you do all the configuration chores you'd ever want to do—without knowing the native cluster commands! The Country and State tabs allow you to set up all the filtering you wish for things like DX Needs, spotter country, preferred bands for spots, source of announcements, etc.—without knowing the native cluster command! The Band tab lets you define your own "band plan" if you so choose. The User tab lets you interrogate who the users are on your node or on the network—without knowing the native cluster commands! (Are you getting the picture?) All announcements, talk messages, mail, and login messages are sorted to and displayed under their respective tabs. Under the DX tab you can see all the spots, without the distracting announcements and talk messages. There are sub-tabs which sort all the spots by band so you can see with a click what's going on in a particular band. At startup, as a default action, Lee brings down the latest 100 spots from your cluster and populates the DX window. If you're on a TNC and don't want to wait, this feature can be turned off.

I had a little difficulty with installation because it took me a while to realize that my firewall was not allowing VE7CC to talk to the outside Internet world. After that realization, it has been clear sailing. Lee is always providing tweaks to the software based on user comments, but he has a "Downloader" program that downloads the new executable version of the software. After a download and system restart, my firewall asks if I want to let VE7CC access the Internet, and a single click moves me along the way. The web page cited above will walk you through all the features and has screen shots, so you don't have to download a thing to get the flavor of this software. Check it out—soon.

## NATO Group Releases Report on BPL

(Reprinted from an ARRL Website Article.)

The Information Systems Technology group, part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Research and Technology Organization (RTO), released their report, HF Interference, Procedures and Tools (RTO-TR-IST-050), in June. This report "address[es] the concerns raised by the potential for unintentional radio interference to be caused by the widespread operation of broadband wire-line telecommunications systems."

BPL, also called Power Line Telecommunications (PLT) in Europe, uses existing power lines for telecommunications with data rates higher than 1 Megabit per second. NATO said that since existing power lines were not designed for such transmissions, "they will cause unintentional RF emissions which may adversely affect the established radio noise floor directly, or by cumulative propagation from many such sources. The existing HF background noise possibly may be increased via ground wave and/or sky wave propagation."

Not only could this be a problem for Amateur Radio operators, but NATO said that military users would be affected as well: "Increase of the existing HF noise floor by widespread use of PLT...will bring up problems for Military Radio Users as well as for HF Communication Intelligence (COMINT) in all NATO countries. The signal-to-noise ratio thus may be reduced for tactical and strategic HF radio as well as for fixed sensitive COMINT sites."

Saying that "PLT will produce the most problems regarding HF interference," the report makes the assertion that ambient noise levels in Europe have not increased in the last 30 years. This was proved using measurements made by the ITU in the 1970s compared with noise levels today, with the report saying that the "ITU Recommendations for natural and man-made noise in the HF-range are still valid in Europe."

The NATO report said "[r]ecent measurements carried out in Germany and Great Britain indicated that there is no remarkable difference between these measurements, specifically no increase of the ambient noise in quiet rural zones within the last 30 years. Based on these measurement results, the cumulative interference field strengths far away from telecommunication networks should not be higher than -15 dB $\mu$ V/m (9 kHz bandwidth) across the entire HF range, if no measurable increase in minimum noise levels are to be tolerated."

Conversely, some European PLT proponents "in presen-

tations and discussions have argued (without being able to prove it) that ITU recommendations based on measurements carried out in the 1970s are no longer valid, as the man-made and the ambient noise levels have increased since that time to considerable higher values (by up to 30 dB)."

The NATO report also indicated the following:

- A high probability that PLT would cause increased noise levels at sensitive receiver sites given the projected market penetration.
- The percentages are highly influenced by assumptions on transmitter EIRP (equivalent, or effective, isotropic radiated power), PLT market penetration and duty cycle.

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, was pleased to see the report. "The findings described in this paper are based on good science. NATO has concluded that protection levels well below 0 dB $\mu$ V/m are needed to prevent interference to sensitive HF operation. They studied distance extrapolation and concluded that 40 dB/decade is not the correct factor to use to make measurements at one distance, and related the measured values to other distances. They also have advanced the state of the art and determined that the aggregate noise from large scale deployment of BPL will increase worldwide noise levels by skywave propagation."

Hare points out that NATO's report "pretty much echoes the ARRL's pleadings during the BPL rulemaking." The ARRL has constantly argued against the 40 dB/decade extrapolation factor that, while recommended by the FCC, the report found, "was not confirmed by measurements carried out by other organizations."

The report acknowledges that there are no commonly accepted regulatory emission limits from PLT and recommends that countries work together to limit these emissions. "While it is highly desirable that the regulatory limits on PLT emissions be harmonized throughout the NATO countries, the RTG recognizes that NATO, by itself, has no regulatory authority over the emission limits. Therefore, it is recommended that NATO seek the implementation of this goal by working together with the national and international regulatory authorities."

*(When the FCC chose to downplay both the ARRL's and our own Federal Government NTIS's report regarding the deleterious effect of BPL, I had cause for great alarm. Now an agency of one of the USA's key alliances is raising the red flag. Perhaps it is time for the FCC to begin listening to technologists.—The Editor)*

## **CDXA Barbeque—Saturday October 13**

The Annual CDXA Barbeque is upon us. This year's venue for the event is the home of Bob and Wanda Burton. Thomas Wright is taking reservations for the caterer at 704-536-9117 or via email at [n4hn@arrl.net](mailto:n4hn@arrl.net). Thomas needs a final headcount by October 9.

Things will get underway at 5:00 PM with a social hour, and dinner will be served at 6:00 PM. Soft drinks, wine and beer will be provided by CDXA. The dinner will be catered by Ric Porter, AA4SC. Desserts are to be provided by *you*, potluck style, by bringing your favorite dessert for all to enjoy. Cost is \$10 per person, payable at the door.

How to find Bob's place? Take NC 16 (Brookshire Boulevard) north from downtown or approach from the north where NC 73 crosses NC 16. At Holly-Huntersville Road go west about 1 mile to Country Lane coming in only from the right (north) side. Bob lives at 10420 Country Lane. Look for the 90 foot tower next to the house!

An alternate route recently opened might interest those coming from the South Carolina area. I-485 beltway on the northwest side of Charlotte is now opened from I-85 north to NC-16. I-485 terminates at NC 16 about 1/2 mile south of the same Holly-Huntersville Road cited in the previous paragraph. However you get there, we look forward to seeing you.

### **“Roger on Your Radio” Fame Grows**

Back in November, 2005 we reported that Charlotte—The City Magazine had a feature on Roger Burt's (N4ZC) popular radio show, “Roger on Your Radio”. Now, in the September 2007 issue of Our State magazine Roger has again been recognized for the job he does each Sunday afternoon keeping alive the music of the “big bands” of the 1930s, 1940s, and early 1950's.

The article is called “Sunday Serenade” and was written by Lori Tate, a local reporter residing in Huntersville. It includes some excellent photographs of Roger at work in the Studio and provides some fine background material of how a founding member of CDXA has nurtured his interest in the “big band sound”.

Roger performs his magic on Gaston College's radio station WSGE at 91.7 on the FM dial. Each Sunday afternoon from 2:00PM to 6:00PM more and more fans tune in to listen to Roger relive that era with music and with Roger's encyclopedic knowledge of all the people and events of that musical era. When asked, his listen-

ers will tell you it is the “fill material” provided by Roger that keeps them listening and really makes the show.

How do we know there are more and more fans? In the past several years, WSGE has been granted rights by the FCC to raise both its power level to 7,500 watts and its antenna height, thereby significantly increasing its listening area. At the same time, the station has gained an extensive listening audience by permitting access to its programming via streaming audio over the Internet.

Roger tells us that he actually has an international listenership these days. Of course, he can do his own “advertising” by word of mouth with the “rag chews” he can perform from amateur radio station N4ZC. Thereafter, an Internet connection allows some of his European friends to “tune in”.

Nevertheless, his biggest fan base comes from those who have been listening to Roger over the nearly 30 years that he's been doing the show. As you might imagine, some are extremely happy with the increased coverage area of the station. And the streaming audio allows his existing fan base to invite even those out of the listening area to “tune in”.

Roger began collecting some of his music on bakelite when his mother told him to take his deceased father's *Reader's Digest* collection of Big Bands for his enjoyment. The collection has grown over that years and now numbers in the thousands—much of it digitized into MP3 format.

When Roger decides on a theme for a show, he merely goes to his huge collection and picks out the pieces he wants. They are copied to a CD-ROM or DVD which Roger jauntily tucks under his arm as he leaves for the station to do his show.

“What about his ‘script’?” you ask. Those of us who know Roger know the answer. Roger doesn't need a script for things he's interested and knowledgeable about. A few years back, in my first visit to the Dayton Hamvention, Roger and I visited the U.S. Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB. When we came across the Glenn Miller section in one corner, I learned more about Glenn Miller from Roger in the next 1/2 hour than I had in the first 60 years of my life.

I'm enjoying listening to “Roger on Your Radio” as I write this on September 9. Come join us for the next show.

## **The Back Page**

**CWAC** and prizes for CQWW 2007 are coming again. See Page 1.

**CQWW CW 2006 results** are now in the record book. CDXA continues to do well. See Page 3.

The “**roving reporter**” goes on the prowl again. This time Raleigh was his destination. See Page 4.

**BS7H**—An Epilog (They really do that? Can I please have a beer?) See Page 6.

Are you familiar with **VE7CC cluster software**? If not, you should be. See Page 7.

**NATO weighs in on BPL**. Is anybody in the FCC listening yet? See Page 8.

The annual **CDXA Barbeque** is appearing on the horizon on Saturday, October 13. It is on your calendar? Learn more on Page 9.

**Roger Burt (N4ZC) wins accolades** for his “other” radio work. See Page 9

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**Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL  
P. O. Box 577  
Davidson, NC 28036**

**cliffw@adelphia.net**

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